IDW

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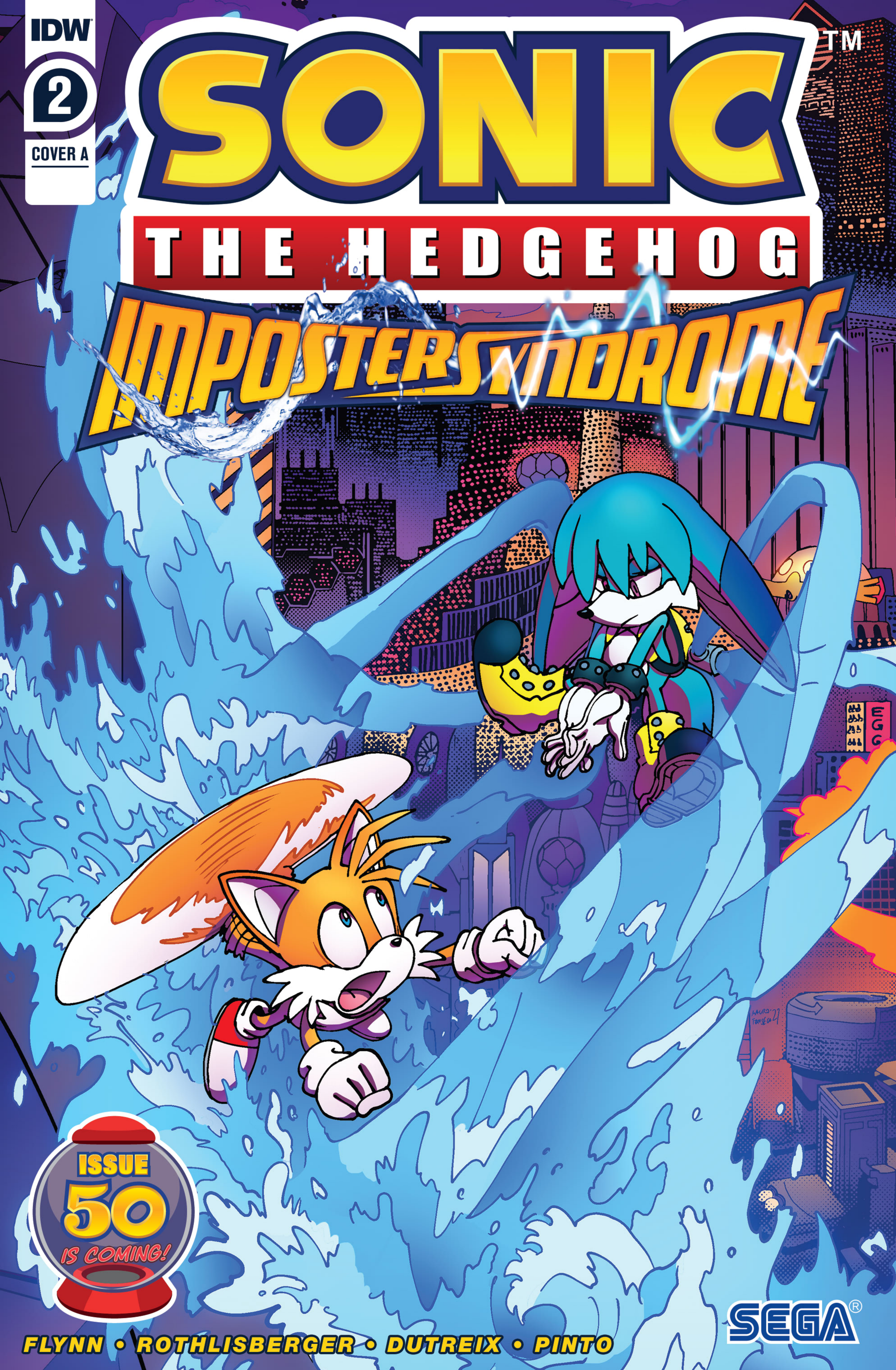
COVER A

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

IMPOSTER SYNDROME



ISSUE 50 IS COMING!

FLYNN • ROTHLISBERGER • DUTREIX • PINTO

SEGA®

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

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ART **THOMAS ROTHLISBERGER**

INKS **GIGI DUTREIX**

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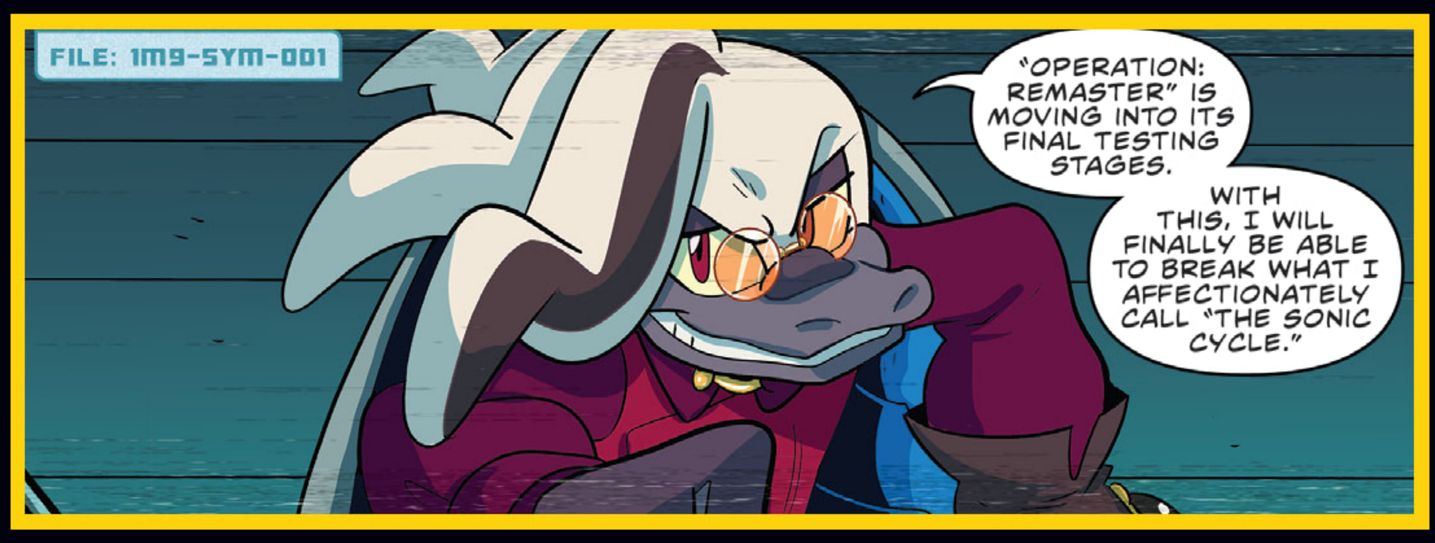
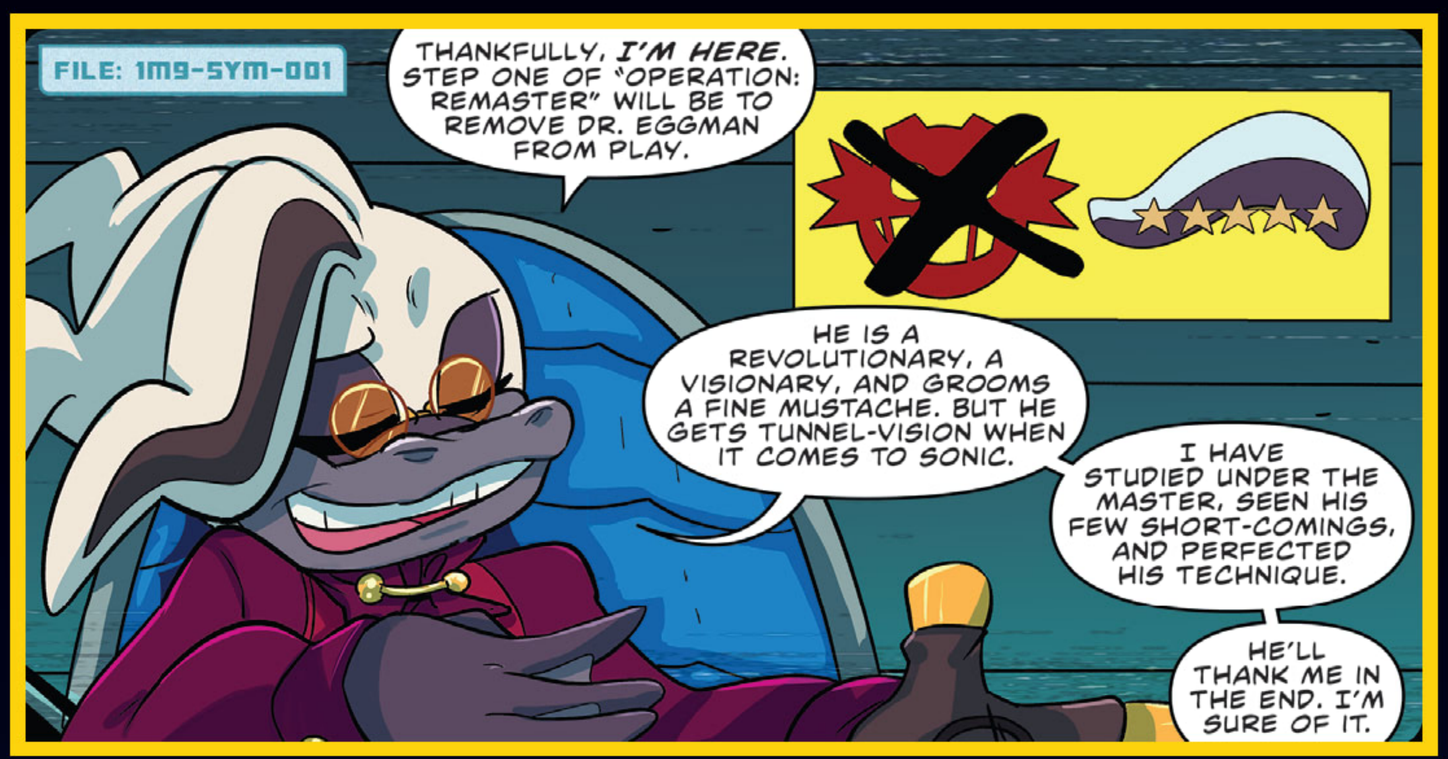
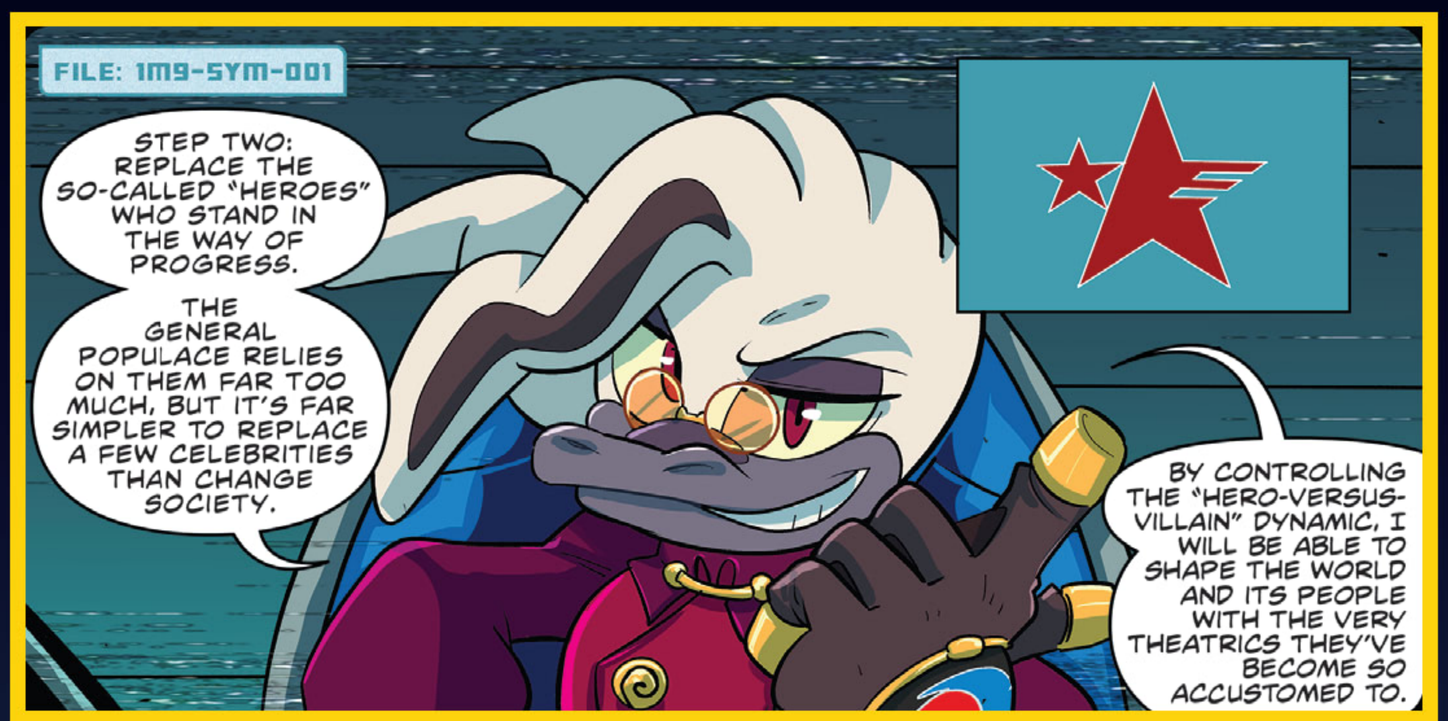
STORY SO FAR


FILE: 1M9-SYM-001
"OPERATION: REMASTER" IS MOVING INTO ITS FINAL TESTING STAGES.
WITH THIS, I WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO BREAK WHAT I AFFECTIONATELY CALL "THE SONIC CYCLE."


FILE: 1M9-SYM-001
THANKFULLY, I'M HERE. STEP ONE OF "OPERATION: REMASTER" WILL BE TO REMOVE DR. EGGMAN FROM PLAY.
HE IS A REVOLUTIONARY, A VISIONARY, AND GROOMS A FINE MUSTACHE. BUT HE GETS TUNNEL-VISION WHEN IT COMES TO SONIC.
I HAVE STUDIED UNDER THE MASTER, SEEN HIS FEW SHORT-COMINGS, AND PERFECTED HIS TECHNIQUE.
HE'LL THANK ME IN THE END. I'M SURE OF IT.


FILE: 1M9-SYM-001
STEP TWO: REPLACE THE SO-CALLED "HEROES" WHO STAND IN THE WAY OF PROGRESS.
THE GENERAL POPULACE RELIES ON THEM FAR TOO MUCH, BUT IT'S FAR SIMPLER TO REPLACE A FEW CELEBRITIES THAN CHANGE SOCIETY.
BY CONTROLLING THE "HERO-VERSUS-VILLAIN" DYNAMIC, I WILL BE ABLE TO SHAPE THE WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE WITH THE VERY THEATRICS THEY'VE BECOME SO ACCUSTOMED TO.

"...SURGE WILL REPLACE HIM, AND I WILL KEEP THE BRAVADO ON A LEASH."
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TOUCH ME? PATHETIC!

"THUS KITSUNAMI WAS MODELED AFTER SONIC'S MOST BENEFICIAL ALLY: TAILS."
Y-YES, MA'AM. THANK YOU, MA'AM.

AAAND REBOOT.

DR. STARLINE
Theatrical Scientist.
Nefarious puppeteer.

SURGE THE TENREC
The Mean Green.
Roguish speedster.

KITSUNAMI "KIT" THE FENNEC
Sorrowful Sidekick.
High-flying hyrdromancer.

FILE: 1M9-SYM-002

I HAVE TESTED SURGE AND KITSUNAMI AS BEST I CAN. NOW, WE COME TO THE FINAL CHECK BEFORE INITIATING "OPERATION: REMASTER."

WE MUST BE ***EXCEEDINGLY*** CAREFUL. IF THIS FAILS, THERE WILL BE NO SECOND CHANCES.

"PREVIOUSLY, I HAD USED AN OVERRIDE PROGRAM TO TAKE COMMAND OF DR. EGGMAN'S FORCES.*

"HOWEVER, IT RELIED ON THE NETWORK'S PERMISSIONS TO EXPLOIT BACKDOORS INTO THE EGGNET.

"FOR MY ENDGAME, I MUST BE ABLE TO OVERPOWER ALL OF DR. EGGMAN'S CONTROL DIRECTLY.

*STH: BAD GUYS #3--EDS.

"I CHOSE TO TURN EGG BASE SIGMA INTO MY OWN HEADQUARTERS.

"TONIGHT, I'LL BE TARGETING EGG BASE ALPHA FOR MY FINAL TEST."

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO POP A BLOOD VESSEL, DOC.

KITSUNAMI. MAP.

YESSIR!

WE WILL ENTER ON THE SOUTH END. I WILL INFILTRATE THE WESTERN CONTROL TOWER AND UPLOAD THE COMMAND PROGRAM.

SURGE, YOU'LL BE ESCORTING KITSUNAMI TO THE EASTERN COMMS TOWER TO ENSURE NO ALERTS ARE BROADCAST TO THE EGGNET.

WHAT ABOUT THE NORTH TOWER?

A WI-FI TOWER SEPARATE FROM THE EGGNET.

EXCLUSIVELY FOR GAMING. THE DOCTOR'S PING IS IMMACULATE.

BACK IT UP A MINUTE, DOC.

I HAVE TO BABYSIT MY SUPPORT UNIT?

THAT'S RIGHT! SHE'S THE HERO. SHE SHOULD HAVE THE IMPORTANT JOBS.

NOBODY WAS TALKIN' TO YOU, DRIPPY!

S-SORRY...

WHY ARE YOU OBJECTING *NOW*? THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED, *REMEMBER*?

YEAH...

...AND NO.

NOW THEN--TO WORK.

BADNIK PATROL! LET'S TAKE THIS DETOUR AND--

--NO! WAIT-WAIT- *WAIT!*

GIVE *ME* AN ESCORT MISSION...

W-WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO RAISE ANY ALARMS...

THEY CAN'T MAKE A FUSS IF THEY'RE DUST!

B-B-BUT DR. STARLINE'S ORDERS W-W-WERE...

HE AIN'T THE BOSS OF ME. HE'S TECH SUPPORT AND THE "IDEA GUY." AND IDEA GUYS ARE A DIAMOND DOZEN.

I-IT'S "A DIME A DOZEN"...

I DO THINGS MY WAY--MY *OWN* WAY. YOU FOLLOW ME. IT'S SIMPLE AND IT *WORKS*.

NOW, LET'S GET TO THAT TOWER ALREADY. MIGHT AS WELL DO THIS STUPID PLAN WHILE WE'RE HERE.

YES, MA'AM.

!

SHORT RANGE AND SINGLE TARGET VERIFIED! NOW FOR THE HARD PART.

EGG CAVE

I'M AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. I CAN AFFORD A SMALL DETOUR.

THIS IS THE TARGET?
YES. I WILL DISABLE THE OUTGOING COMMUNICATIONS.
HOW LONG IS *THAT* GONNA TAKE?
A FEW MINUTES?
OR I CAN KNOCK IT DOWN IN A FEW SECONDS!
NO-NO-NO! THEN EGGMAN WILL *KNOW* WE WERE HERE!
SO? BRING HIM ON! I'LL BURY HIM NEXT TO SONIC.
B-B-BUT TH-TH-THE PLAN...
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU AND PLANS?!
IT'S WHAT I DO!
THUD
THUD
THUD

I TAKE IT ALL BACK. YOU DO THE BORING NERD STUFF! I'LL PROVIDE COVER!

YES, MA'AM!

WOO-HOO-HA-HA!

SMASH

THIS WAY! I DON'T WANT YOU DISTRACTING THE KID!

WHOOM

SMASH

GET IT TOGETHER, SURGE! SONIC WOULD BE RUNNING RINGS AROUND THIS THING!

YOU'RE BETTER THAN HIM!

POW

HURRY-
HURRY-
HURRY...

THERE!
DONE!

GET BACK TO SURGE!

SUPPORT SURGE!

BE WITH SURGE!

WHAM

CRASH

HAHAHA! WHAT'CHU GOT, HUH?! HUH?!

I'M HERE TO HELP!

YOU MEAN KILL THE MOOD! I'VE GOT IT ON THE ROPES! IT CAN'T EVEN--

SURGE!

SMASH

OH, TO GO BACK TO THAT SIMPLER TIME.* IT WASN'T REALLY THAT LONG AGO, AND YET IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN A LIFETIME...

*5TH ANNUAL 2020--EDS.

...BACK WHEN I WAS STILL ENAMORED WITH THE SPECTACLE. A NAIVE ADMIRER OF A BRILLIANT BUT FLAWED MAN.

THE VEIL HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM MY EYES. I WILL SUPPLANT THE DOCTOR AND PROVE MY METHODS SUPERIOR.

ONCE HE'S SEEN THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS, I WILL WELCOME HIM BACK TO MY SIDE, AND WE CAN RULE THIS WORLD TOGETHER.

GET BACK!

STAY AWAY FROM HER!

WHAM

SURGE...

...SURGE?! D-DON'T MOVE! YOU'RE--

--NOT HURT AT ALL?

I WAS...

...HOLD THAT THOUGHT.

BANG

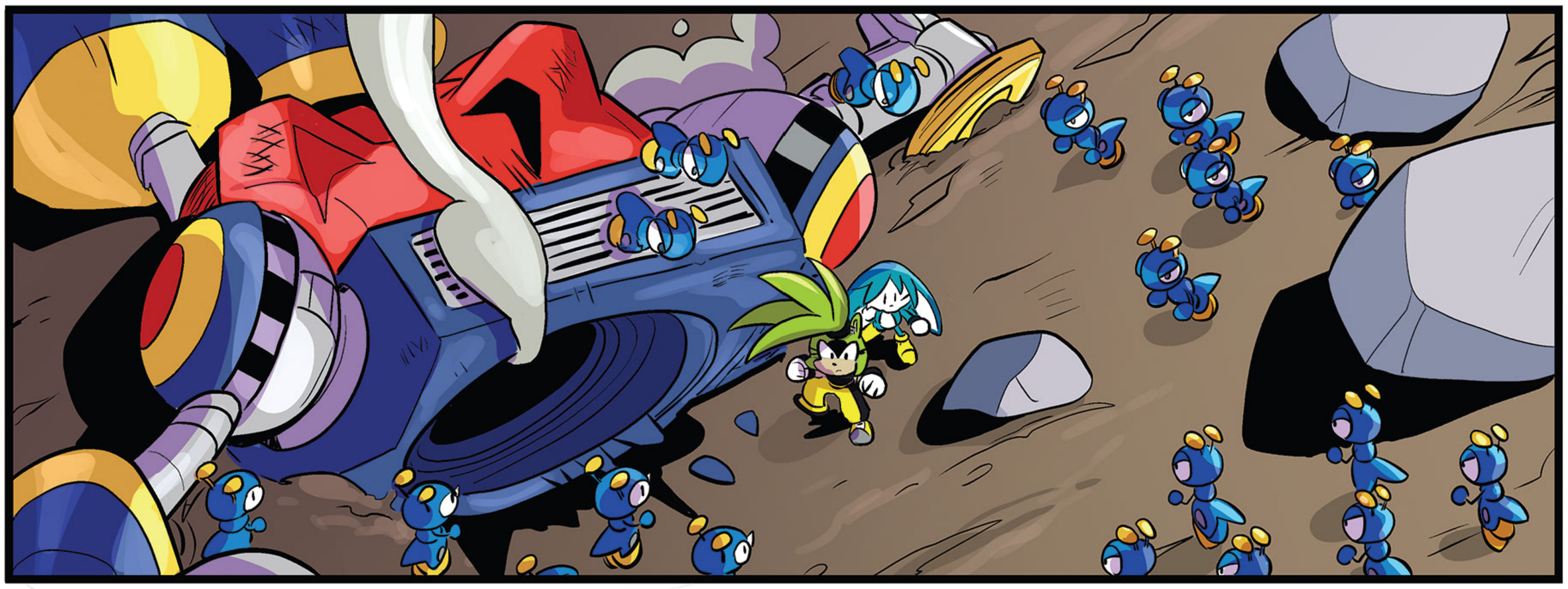
CRASH

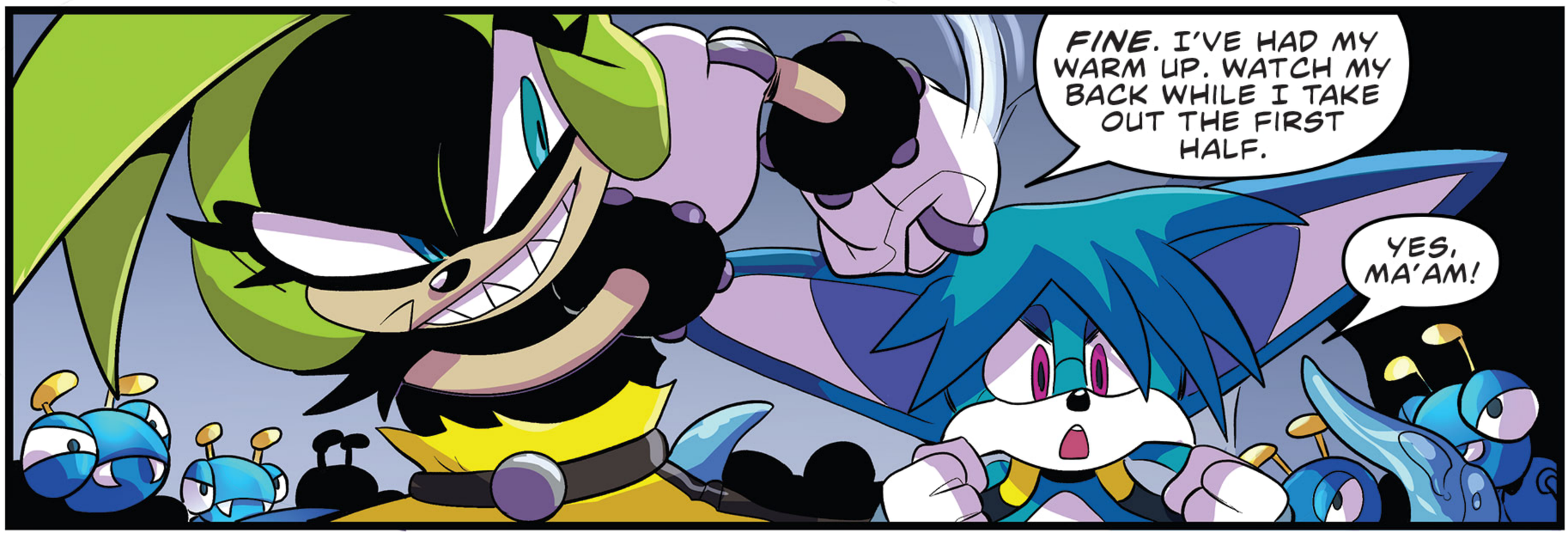
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET! SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MESS WITH THE BEST?! HUH?! HUH?!

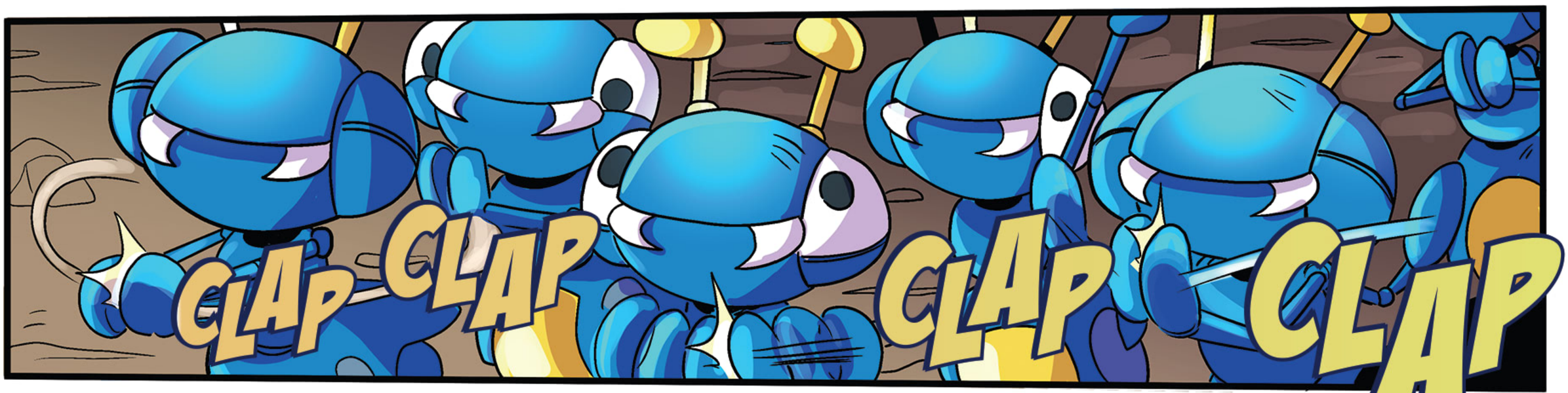
M-MA'AM...?

WHAT?!

TH-THE FIGHT ALERTED THE OTHERS...




FINE. I'VE HAD MY WARM UP. WATCH MY BACK WHILE I TAKE OUT THE FIRST HALF.
YES, MA'AM!


CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

WHAT THE...?
EXCELLENT WORK! MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

THIS BASE, AND ALL OF ITS BADNIKS, NOW SERVE ME.
JOIN ME IN THE CONTROL ROOM, WON'T YOU?

SOON...

FLIPPIN' WEIRD...

TOP MARKS FOR EVERYONE! MY OVERRIDE PROGRAM IS A SUCCESS! NO ALARMS WERE TRIGGERED! THE PLAN WENT FLAWLESSLY!

WE MAY NOW FINALLY BEGIN MY MASTER PLAN!

AFTER A WARDROBE CHANGE. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

W-WELL... SURGE WAS...

A LITTLE CARELESS. SO SUE ME. THE KID WAS A BIG HELP. IT'S ALL GOOD, DOC.

ARE YOU SURE?

LISTEN TO THIS GUY! JUST SAVOR THE VICTORY, YOU KILLJOY!

YES. WELL. I WILL OVERSEE CLEAN-UP TO ENSURE DR. EGGMAN DOESN'T FIND ANY EVIDENCE BEFORE WE MAKE OUR MOVE.

DISMISSED.

B-B-B-BUT...!

SHUT IT. LET THE BUSY MAN DO HIS BUSY WORK.

SEE ANY CAMERA? DETECT ANY HIDDEN MICS?

N-NO...?

THAT HIT SHOULD'VE KILLED YOU! WE SHOULD TELL THE DOCTOR SO HE CAN MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY!

WE'RE NOT TELLING HIM *ANYTHING*.

B-BUT HE ENHANCED US! HE'D KNOW...

YEAH? ENHANCED US HOW? WHAT *EXACTLY* DID HE DO?

I... I DON'T KNOW...

UH-HUH. I KNOW A LOT OF *WHAT*, BUT NOT A LOT OF WHY.

MY OWN THOUGHTS AREN'T ADDING UP. I *KNOW* THE DOC IS THE CENTER OF IT.

I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP TO SORT THIS OUT. I CAN COUNT ON YOU, RIGHT?

Y-YES, MA'AM! ALWAYS! ANYTHING!

WHERE DO WE START?

STARLINE NEEDS TO HEAR HIMSELF TALK. WE FIND HIS RECORDS. WE FIND OUT WHAT HE DID TO US. AND THEN WE MAKE HIM HURT FOR IT.

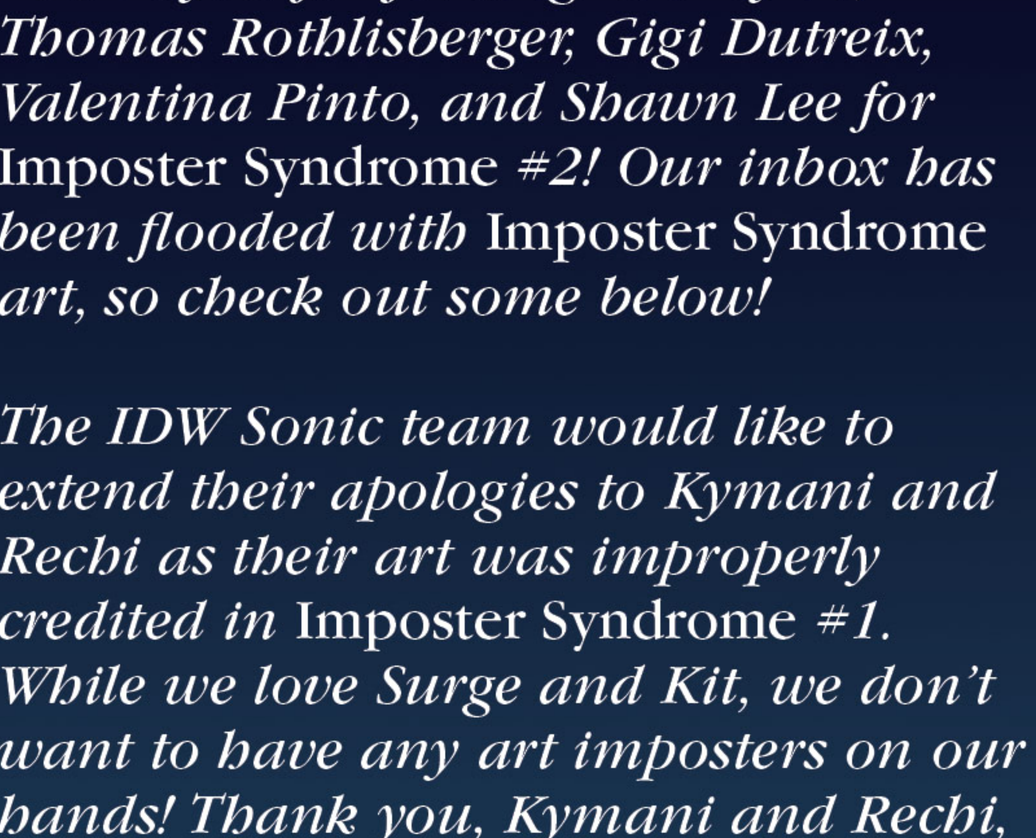
NEXT TIME:
THE SHOCKING TRUTH!

NEXT MONTH

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hello, Imposters! Oooh, things are getting juicy! What is Starline up to?! Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Thomas Rothlisberger, Gigi Dutreix, Valentina Pinto, and Shawn Lee for Imposter Syndrome *#2! Our inbox has been flooded with* Imposter Syndrome *art, so check out some below!*

The IDW Sonic team would like to extend their apologies to Kymani and Rechi as their art was improperly credited in Imposter Syndrome *#1. While we love Surge and Kit, we don't want to have any art imposters on our hands! Thank you, Kymani and Rechi, for your lovely art.*



Hi everyone from IDW team,

My name is Daniela and I'm from Czech Republic. I have been a Sonic fan since first Sonic Movie trailer came out and that was when I was 13. Man, I am so happy I saw this movie, it hyped me a lot and made me make an art account on Instagram where I've been posting my arts since the day I became 14. I found so many amazing friends thanks to the Sonic community, this was one of the best decisions I've made in my life. I started with traditional art on paper I had at home and 8 months later I tried digital art on my phone. I can't believe how much I've improved!

This is one of the latest artworks I made recently.

I can't even imagine how much effort do you put into these amazing comics, they are so cool! I would like to try some

mini comics too but I didn't push myself into that yet hehe. I love *Tangle and Whisper* series and I am very excited for *Imposter Syndrome* series, I love designs of Surge and Kit.

All of you are awesome and inspiring artists, thank you for giving us these amazing adventures with Sonic and his friends. Keep up the good work!

Best regards, Daeny

Hi, Daeny,

It's so heart-warming to hear that you've made friends and found your passion because of Sonic. Your art is wonderful, I'm so impressed that you've made so much progress in such little time. Making your own comics is intimidating, but I bet you'd be great at it. Since you love Tangle and Whisper, and Surge and Kit, maybe a comic about another fun duo would be a good place to start? Thank you for your kind words and art!

Hello! First off, I wanted to say that I adore Surge and Kit's designs;They look so amazing! Second off, I wanted to ask if Surge and Kit have lightning and water powers because Sonic dislikes water and Tails is scared of thunder/lightning or if it was unintentional. Either way I'm looking forward to seeing more of them (and others) in future issues, thank you and good luck to the IDW staff in the future!

Ava M

Hello, Ava,

That was indeed intentional! When Ian Flynn, Evan Stanley, and Mauro Fonseca were working with the IDW and Sega teams to finalize Surge and Kit's designs, they made sure that the Imposters would be formidable opponents. Lots of thought and care went into their designs, so thank you for your kind words about them!

Thank you for joining us, Squad. Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them:"OKAY TO PRINT!"And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, pick up Sonic the Hedgehog *#48 to see what the Chaotix are up to!*

ART MAURO FONSECA COLORS JOANA LAFUENTE

ART GIGI DUTREIX

ART ADAM BRYCE THOMAS